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DE RUEHSO #0605 3121558
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 071558Z NOV 08
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8689
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9851
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8915
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 3200

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000605

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: U.S. ELECTIONS

The Boy from Hawaii

Commentary by former Brazilian President Jos Sarney in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (11/07) says: "The U.S. will not change. It will continue with its problems, contradictions, crisis, their two wars (Iraq and Afghanistan), the contentiousness of the Middle East, North Korea, and Iran and, in order not to be left out of the game, the jocose challenges of Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador. The major economic, political and cultural machine is still working. A recession coming and an international image discussed by the actions of George W. Bush, an updated version of Theodore Roosevelt, of "big-stick". ... Obama's victory will not change, but changes everything. .. The victory was from the United States. It is the country that justifies to the world the "why" of its leadership and its capability of renewing itself, even in the middle of an economic turmoil that nobody knows when it has started and when it will end... He (Obama) brings hope and the additional load of being a symbol for humankind of reconciliation of races and projects the ideal of a world without skin color and equalized by the dream of Luther King: character. From this message he had the historical responsibility of being the protagonist. He cannot fail in using this power given to him to pacify, unite and build a world different from the one he found when he was born on a night in Hawaii in the arms of a Kenyan, black as the night, originating from one of the most primitive tribes of his country, a boy crying, but a leader that has changed American history."

A Black President

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (11/07) comments: "President-elect Barak Obama's speech is a speech of a statesman that, beyond an optimistic message about the future of the U.S., contains the key to understanding the question of the day's journey of November 4: the election of the first black president in a country that has 43% white voters, paradoxically, ended up doing what he did without being mature enough. It is true that Bush's series of disasters was decisive for Obama's success, but it is also true that a white Democratic candidate, even without exceptional skills, would have had a major part of many white voters."
White